

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A13NEW YORK TIMES
13 December 1985

FILE ONLY

Kuwait Spurns Anglican Envoy on U.S. Hostages

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Special to The New York Times

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Dec. 12 — Efforts by a special envoy of the Church of England to bring about the release of a group of Americans held hostage in Lebanon have been hampered by Kuwait's refusal to deal with him, according to Arab diplomats.

The diplomats said this week that Kuwait had rejected a request by the Reagan Administration to receive the Anglican envoy, Terry Waite. They said the request was made after the envoy's own application for an entry visa was denied.

Government-run newspapers in Kuwait have bitterly attacked the Anglican mediator and Washington, accusing them of trying to bring pressure on Kuwait to deal with terrorists.

Mr. Waite, who was sent to the Middle East by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Robert Runcie, visited Lebanon twice last month and said afterward that he met with the Moslem fundamentalists holding the Americans hostage. He later met with Vice President Bush in Washington.

Envoy May Return to Beirut Soon

Although Mr. Waite said he would return to Beirut, he has not yet made a third visit. Today, according to United Press International, the Anglican

Church said Mr. Waite was "engaged in a series of talks" in preparation for returning to Beirut before Christmas.

He has been hoping to visit Kuwait first to have something to tell the Americans' captors when he sees them again.

He said he would like to talk to Kuwaiti officials about 17 Arabs linked to Iran who were imprisoned for bombings two years ago at the United States and French Embassies in Kuwait. Islamic Holy War, a shadowy group that took responsibility for seizing the Americans in West Beirut, linked freedom for the hostages to an agreement by Kuwait to release the prisoners.

The Kuwaiti Government, has said, however, that it sees no link between the kidnapped Americans and its prisoners. A Government official commenting on Mr. Waite's request to visit Kuwait said this month: "Kuwait does not see such a visit as necessary. It does not see any connection between the hostages and those who carried out the Kuwaiti bombings, and who have been given a fair trial."

'Humanitarian Grounds'

The Anglican envoy told a daily newspaper in the United Arab Emirates, Zahrat Al Khaleej, in an interview last week that he was seeking contact with Kuwait on "humanitarian grounds, but not on the basis that it would violate or weaken Kuwaiti law."

But Al Qabas, a Kuwaiti daily, asserted Monday that Mr. Waite wanted

in effect wanted to arrange a prisoner exchange — the prisoners in Kuwait for the Americans held in Lebanon.

The Americans are the Rev. Lawrence M. Jenco, a Roman Catholic priest; Terry A. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press; David P. Jacobsen, director of the American University Hospital, and Thomas M. Sutherland, dean of agriculture at the university.

There have been indications, so far unconfirmed, that a fifth American, William Buckley, a diplomat, may have been slain. A sixth, Peter Kilburn, a librarian at the American University for whom no ransom note was received, may have not been abducted by Islamic Holy War.

The newspaper, along with another Kuwaiti daily, Al Rai Al Aam, in what some Arab analysts said appeared to

be an orchestrated campaign, accused the United States of putting pressure on Kuwait to yield to terrorist demands and release the prisoners.

The newspapers, whose editorials were quoted on Arab radio stations Monday, said that contrary to public statements by Reagan Administration officials about refusing to deal with terrorists, Washington was trying to get Kuwait to yield to their demands.

Al Qabas called Mr. Waite an "undesirable alien" and said it supported the Kuwaiti Government's decision not to give him an entry visa.